

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1230  
By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to recognize R.J. Hayes on the occasion of his retirement from The Hands-On Science Center in Tullahoma.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have served with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm to transform struggling public institutions into viable and prosperous enterprises; and

WHEREAS, R.J. Hayes is one such estimable person who has served The Hands-On Center (HOSC) in Tullahoma with distinction for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes will be taking a much deserved retirement from his duties with HOSC on June 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, from its founding and through its early days of existence, The Hands-On Science Center struggled to find its place in its twelve-county community; a sufficient number of visitors to keep HOSC's financial program on track had not materialized, and neither public nor private financial support to the Center had reached anticipated levels; and

WHEREAS, at this critical juncture in HOSC's development, Mr. R.J. Hayes assumed the reins of leadership to lead HOSC into its present era of greatness, as his dynamic style of leadership changed the Center for the better and forever; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes previous careers as an Air Force officer and a telephone company executive, in addition to his many small business ventures, diverse hobbies, and interests coupled with his positive approach to life in general, enabled HOSC to thrive and grow to reach its great potential; and

WHEREAS, through innovation and extremely hard work, Mr. Hayes doubled attendance at HOSC; completed Phase II of the building program, which more than doubled the size of the display area; and made the Center a widely respected educational institution; and

WHEREAS, in addition to transforming the enlarged HOSC gift shop into a money-making operation, this exceptional gentleman personally raised funds for the installation of a state-of-the-art electronic classroom in the theater area of the HOSC building; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes also raised the necessary funds to finish the interior of the expanded building, expertly soliciting and managing the services of volunteers to finish the project, including the construction and maintenance of exhibits, at a small fraction of the cost normally associated with such a major undertaking; and

WHEREAS, he also developed inventive programs and advertising that made HOSC the favorite facility for birthday parties and a popular field trip destination for hundreds of student groups throughout the twelve-county region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Hayes will soon be answering the tantalizing call of retirement, his legacy of innovation and diligence is so remarkable and so outstanding that it will surely serve to maintain HOSC as a major educational institution in the region far into the future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to R.J. Hayes our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors, even as we pay tribute to his groundbreaking work with The Hands-On Center in Tullahoma.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.